

Message Text

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O R 171406Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8719
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 WARSAW 4300

BELGRADE FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINT ECON EEWT US PL
SUBJ: US-POLISH RELATIONS -- CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI'S MEETING
 WITH PZPR-CC FIRST SECRETARY EDWARD GIEREK, JUNE 13, 1977

REF: STATE 135696

1.A. SUMMARY: GIEREK PRESENTED A BALANCED, BUT FUNDAMENTALLY
OPTIMISTIC, PICTURE OF THE POLISH LEADERSHIP'S EFFORTS TO
RESOLVE THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT IT. HE
REACTED COOLLY TO THE CONGRESSMAN'S ASSURANCES ABOUT PRESIDENT
CARTER'S INTENTION OF CONTINUING TO IMPROVE US-POLISH RELATIONS,
BUT BECAME CORDIAL ONCE THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF JUNE 11 HAD
BEEN TRANSLATED FOR HIM, ALTHOUGH HIS INITIAL RESERVE DID NOT
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DISAPPEAR ALTOGETHER. HE GAVE GREATEST EMPHASIS TO AN ATTEMPT
TO DEMONSTRATE THAT, WHILE AVOWEDLY A COMMUNIST, HE WAS A
PATRIOTIC POLE WHOSE GREATEST AMBITION WAS TO LEAVE POLAND
STRONGER AND MORE SECURE THAN HE HAD FOUND IT, AS WELL AS TO
SOLIDIFY THE LINKS HE HAD BEGUN FORGING BETWEEN POLAND AND
THE WEST, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES. HE DISPLAYED STRONG
EMOTION WHEN HE EXPRESSED HIS FIRM RESOLVE TO DO WHATEVER WAS

NECESSARY TO PREVENT "OUR ENEMIES" FROM DIVIDING THE POLISH PEOPLE (BY IMPLICATION, POLES AND PEOPLE OF POLISH ORIGIN ABROAD WERE INCLUDED) AND SETTING THEM AGAINST EACH OTHER. HE ASKED THE CONGRESSMAN TO DO WHAT HE COULD FOR POLAND AND TO ASSURE OTHER POLISH-AMERICANS THAT THE LEADERSHIP IN POLAND KNEW HOW TO DEFEND POLAND'S INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

B. ACTION REQUESTED: THIS ACCOUNT OF THE GIEREK-ROSTENKOWSKI MEETING HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI. HE HAS ASKED THAT A COPY OF IT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO HIM, TOGETHER WITH THE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO GIEREK (REF).

2. CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI WAS FLOWN FROM POZNAN TO WARSAW ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 13 IN A POLISH AIR FORCE PLANE TO MEET WITH GIEREK. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME ECONOMY JERZY OLSZEWSKI AND ME.

3. DURING OUR FLIGHT TO WARSAW, MINISTER OLSZEWSKI SET THE STAGE FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH THE FIRST SECRETARY BY STRESSING THE RELATIVELY LIBERAL CONDITIONS WHICH, HE SAID, EXISTED IN POLAND, IN CONTRAST TO WHAT HE IMPLIED WAS THE SITUATION IN OTHER COMMUNIST STATES. HE SPOKE OF THE DIFFICULT PERIOD THROUGH WHICH POLAND HAD PASSED IN THE EARLY 1950'S, SAYING THAT HE HIMSELF WAS TRIED, SENTENCED, AND SPENT THREE YEARS IN PRISON AT THAT TIME. (IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHAT THE CHARGE WAS.) HE ALSO SAID THAT, AS A YOUNG MAN BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR, HE HAD BELONGED TO THE POLISH SOCIALIST PARTY (PPS) YOUTH ORGANIZATION OM-TUR -- THE YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF THE SOCIETY FOR WORKERS' UNIVERSITIES -- AND HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE PRESENTED AN ORTHODOX TREATMENT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE "PARTISANS" OF THE SITUATION IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY -- THEN THE PPR -- DURING THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR YEARS, CONTENDING THAT JEWISH PARTY MEMBERS HAD OCCUPIED ALL THE MOST INFLUENTIAL POSITIONS AND IMPLYING THAT THIS WAS WHY THE POLISH PEOPLE HAD BEEN SO ANTI-COMMUNIST THEN. HE SAID THAT THAT SITUATION HAD CHANGED WITH GOMULKA'S RETURN TO POWER AND HAD BEEN ALTOGETHER ELIMINATED IN 1968. THE MILITARY PROCURATOR, WHO HAD PREPARED THE CASE AGAINST HIM IN THE EARLY 1950'S, OLSZEWSKI SAID, HAD "DECIDED IN 1968 TO BECOME AN ISRAELI CITIZEN." THIS, HE SAID, WAS THE BACKGROUND TO THE SO-CALLED DISSIDENT MOVEMENT OF TODAY. KURON AND MICHNIK, HE SAID, WERE BOTH JEWS AND UNDERSTANDABLY RESENTFUL OF THE EXCLUSION OF JEWISH COMMUNISTS FROM CONTROL AND INFLUENCE IN THE PARTY. BY IMPLICATION, AS MUCH AS BY WHAT HE ACTUALLY SAID, HE ATTEMPTED TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT THAT EXCLUSION WAS THE FUNDAMENTAL REASON FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORKERS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE (KOR). THE BOTTOM LINE OF THIS PRESENTATION WAS THAT THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THE GIEREK REGIME WAS A REVERSION TO THE "POLICE STATE" WHICH HAD EXISTED IN THE

EARLY 1950'S. POLAND'S GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION COULD NOT BE CHANGED AND THERE WERE DEFINITE LIMITS TO HOW FAR THE POLISH REGIME COULD DEVIATE FROM THE SOVIET MODEL.

4. GIEREK RECEIVED CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI WARMLY AND LAUNCHED IMMEDIATELY INTO A BRIEFING ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN POLAND. HE SPOKE FIRST ABOUT THE DECLINE IN THE NUMBERS OF PIGS AND CATTLE AND THE CONSEQUENT MEAT SHORTAGE, AND ABOUT AMELIORATIVE EFFORTS THE REGIME WAS MAKING. HE WENT ON TO HOUSING, SAYING THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO SOLVE THE HOUSING PROBLEM BY 1985 IN SUCH A FASHION THAT EACH POLISH FAMILY WOULD HAVE ITS OWN APARTMENT.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8720
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THE NEXT PROBLEM WAS TO ASSURE QUALITATIVELY AND QUANTITATIVELY ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF GOODS TO THE MARKET; IT WOULD BE EASY TO DO THIS IF THE MEAT SHORTAGE COULD BE OVERCOME. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY SO MUCH EMPHASIS WAS NOW BEING PLACED ON THE HOUSING SHORTAGE. THE ANSWER WAS THAT THERE WAS NOW A DEMOGRAPHIC PEAK, RESULTING FROM THE POST-WAR BABY BOOM. THERE HAD BEEN 327,000 MARRIAGES LAST YEAR. NEXT YEAR, THERE WOULD BE 35 MIL-

LION POLES, A UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENT IN POLISH HISTORY;
BEFORE THE WAR, THERE HAD BEEN A TOTAL POPULATION IN
POLAND OF 35 MILLION, OF WHOM ONLY 23 MILLION WERE ETHNIC
POLES. BY THE YEAR 2000, THERE SHOULD BE 40 MILLION
POLES. IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF MERE NUMBERS, HE SAID.
THESE WERE NOW EDUCATED PEOPLE. THERE WERE SOME 460,000
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STUDENTS IN HIGHER SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY. THAT WAS
AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT WE USED TO HAVE
AND WHAT WE NOW HAVE. NOW, WE HAVE 35 MILLION POLES,
INCREASINGLY WELL-EDUCATED, DEVELOPING THE RESOURCES OF
THE COUNTRY, AND THESE WERE A RICH STOREHOUSE. THESE
35 MILLION POLES, HE SAID, WERE UNITED AND CONSCIOUS OF
THEIR GOAL.

5. AT THE END OF THIS BRIEFING, GIEREK EXTENDED TO THE
CONGRESSMAN A RENEWED WELCOME AND TURNED TO US-POLISH
RELATIONS. THE LAST FOUR-TO-FIVE YEARS, HE SAID, CAN BE
DESCRIBED AS GOOD ONES IN OUR RELATIONS. HE WOULD NOT
GO INTO ALL THE DETAILS; JOICULARLY, HE ASKED WHY, FOR
INSTANCE, THE US WAS NOT BUYING MORE FROM POLAND. THAT,
HOWEVER, WAS A DETAIL, THE ELABORATION OF WHICH HE COULD
LEAVE TO MINISTER OLSZEWSKI.

6. CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI SAID IT WAS AN EDUCATION
FOR HIM TO VISIT POLAND AS HE HAD BEEN DOING; THIS WAS
HIS FOURTH VISIT. GIEREK INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT, NO
MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THE CONGRESSMAN CAME TO POLAND, HE AND HIS COL-
LEAGUES WOULD CONSIDER THAT IT WAS NOT OFTEN ENOUGH.
THE CONGRESSMAN SAID THAT HIS VISITS HAD BEEN MADE UNDER
THREE DIFFERENT PRESIDENTS. THIS WAS HIS FIRST VISIT AS
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A PRESIDENT FROM HIS OWN PARTY,
THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. PRESIDENT CARTER WAS TREMENDOUSLY
CONCERNED ABOUT OUR RELATIONS WITH POLAND. HE HAD
BREAKFAST WITH THE PRESIDENT ALMOST WEEKLY. WHEN HE
HAD SEEN THE PRESIDENT LAST THURSDAY AT BREAKFAST, THE
PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO VISIT POLAND AS HIS PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE KNEW HOW WARMLY
THE POLES WELCOMED THE VISITS OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS.
PRESIDENT CARTER WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO AN OPPORTUNITY
TO VISIT POLAND. THE CONGRESSMAN SAID THAT HE HAD AL-
READY SEEN US-POLISH RELATIONS DEVELOP VERY CONSIDERABLY.
HE WANTED TO GIVE THE FIRST SECRETARY THE PRESIDENT'S
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PERSONAL LETTER. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WANTED TO GIVE THE FIRST SECRETARY A COPY OF SECRETARY KREP'S LETTER, INVITING MINISTER OLSZEWSKI TO VISIT THE US. HE HOPED MINISTER OLSZEWSKI WOULD COME AT A TIME WHEN THE CONGRESSMAN COULD TRY TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING HOSPITALITY THE MINISTER HAD SHOWN HIM AND HIS PARTY.

THE CONGRESSMAN CONTINUED, POLAND AND THE US SHARE

A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS: HOUSING, THE POPULATION EXPLOSION. HE SAID THE POLES WERE VERY FORTUNATE; THEIR YOUNG PEOPLE WERE GETTING MARRIED. SOME OF OURS NO LONGER DID THAT. THE CONGRESSMAN WAS SURE THAT THE FIRST SECRETARY WOULD BECOME AWARE OF THE WARM HELPING HAND OF PRESIDENT CARTER IN OUR RELATIONS. HE WAS GOING BACK TO THE US TO TRY TO POINT OUT HOW WE WERE PUTTING POLAND INTO AN UNWARRANTED POSITION BY OUR TENDENCY TOWARDS PROTECTIONISM. IN OUR HISTORY, IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN DIFFICULT WHEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES HAD BEEN CONTROLLED BY DIFFERENT PARTIES, BUT NOW ONE PARTY WAS IN CONTROL. THE PRESIDENT COULD HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF INFLUENCE ON THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. THE CONGRESSMAN HIMSELF SIUQBING TO TRY TO INFLUENCE OUR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN FAVOR OF INCREASED TRADE WITH POLAND. THE VISIT LAST YEAR OF THEN MAJORITY LEADER TIP O'NEILL -- NOW THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES -- AND THE MEETING THEN WITH THE FIRST SECRETARY AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD HAD A GREAT INFLUENCE ON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE. HE OFTEN TALKED WITH TIP O'NEILL ABOUT PROGRESS IN US-POLISH RELATIONS. THE ONLY PROBLEM POLISH-AMERICANS HAD, THE CONGRESSMAN SAID, WAS THAT THEY DID NOT SUFFICIENTLY PUBLICIZE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. BUT, HE SAID, POLES ARE DOERS, NOT BRAGGARTS.

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7. THE FIRST SECRETARY AGREED, SAYING THAT, BECAUSE THEY WERE DOERS, THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE. THAT WAS HOW THEY HAD BECOME A NATION WITH A CERTAIN REPUTATION IN THE WORLD. HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-POLISH RELATIONS MET WITH A CERTAIN UNDERSTANDING IN THE US GOVERNMENT. HE WANTED TO SAY QUITE FRANKLY THAT HE HAD NOT OBJECTED AT ALL TO THE WAY IN WHICH THOSE RELATIONS HAD DEVELOPED UNDER PRESIDENT FORD; INDEED, HE WAS GRATEFUL TO PRESIDENT FORD FOR THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE. NO DOUBT THE CONGRESSMAN REMEMBERED THAT, DURING THE MEETING WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL, TO WHICH THE CONGRESSMAN HAD REFERRED, THE FIRST SECRETARY HAD BEEN ASKED BY ONE OF THE OTHER CONGRESSMEN WHOM HE FAVORED FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. HE HAD SAID THEN THAT HE HAD BEEN SURE THE AMERICANS WOULD CHOOSE THE BEST MAN AMONG ALL THE CANDIDATES THEN
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IN THE FIELD. "WE HAVEN'T YET FELT THAT GOOD ATTITUDE OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ABOUT WHICH YOU SPOKE. WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP OUR RELATIONS AND TO IMPROVE THEM EVEN MORE THAN WE WERE ABLE TO DO BEFORE. IF THAT HAPPENS, I WILL BE VERY GLAD TO THANK PRESIDENT CARTER. I HOPE THAT MINISTER OLSZEWSKI, WHEN HE MEETS WITH SECRETARY KREPS, WILL BE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE NECESSARY MEASURES. I AM OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPING US-POLISH RELATIONS AND ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLAND. IN TEN YEARS, THE POSITION OF POLAND WILL BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT. POLISH ECONOMIC POWER WILL BECOME AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE. IN FIVE-TO-TEN YEARS, WE SHALL SUCCEED IN OVERTAKING SOME WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. FOR THAT, WE NEED PEACE; THIS IS THE NEED NOT ONLY OF THE POLES, BUT OF ALL THE WORLD, IF IT IS TO PROSPER. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY, AN INDEPENDENT POLISH STATE HAS BEEN AT PEACE FOR THE LONGEST SINGLE PERIOD -- FOR NEARLY 33 YEARS. THIS IS NO MEAN ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR ANY POLISH GOVERNMENT."

8. CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI SAID HE HAD BEEN AND CONTINUED TO BE A VERY CLOSE FRIEND OF PRESIDENT FORD. HE HAD WORKED WITH HIM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR 16 YEARS. IF HE WERE NOT NOW IN POLAND, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN PLAYING GOLF WITH PRESIDENT FORD OVER THE PAST WEEKEND. IT WAS HARD FOR HIM TO SUPPORT SOMEONE ELSE, BUT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT HE HAD DONE THE RIGHT THING. IT WAS HIS BELIEF AND HOPE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER COULD BUILD ON THE BASIS LAID DOWN BY PRESIDENT FORD. IT WAS A FACT THAT THE MAJORITY OF POLISH-AMERICANS WERE DEMOCRATS AND THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH MORE IN A DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION. HE BELIEVED THAT POLAND AND THE US HAD MUCH IN COMMON. EARLY IN HIS POLITICAL CAREER, HE HAD BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THE US ATTITUDE TOWARDS POLAND. DURING THE LAST ELECTION, A NUMBER OF POLISH-AMERICANS HAD BEEN VERY WARM TOWARDS PRESIDENT FORD. BUT IT WAS APPARENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS COMMITTED TO PEACE, TO TRADE -- HIS ANTI-PROTECTIONIST STAND, E.G., ON SHOES, SHOWED THAT -- TO CEMENTING RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND TO DEVELOPING TRADE. NOW, HE THOUGHT, ONE WOULD FIND CONGRESSMEN-- AND CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT ONLY POLISH-AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN -- SINGING THE PRAISES OF PRESIDENT CARTER. CONSEQUENTLY, HE THOUGHT, THE US AND POLAND WOULD CONTINUE TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER AND, UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER, A NEW AND HARMONIOUS NOTE WOULD EMERGE IN OUR RELATIONS.

9. GIEREK SAID THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO TALK ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER, BECAUSE HE DID NOT KNOW HIM. OF COURSE, HE ACCEPTED WHAT CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI SAID ABOUT HIM. WITH REGARD TO WHAT THE CONGRESSMAN HAD SAID ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS POLAND, IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT ANY REALISTIC POLITICAL LEADER WOULD NOT FAIL TO TAKE POLAND INTO ACCOUNT. "WE ARE THE SECOND SLAVIC PEOPLE," HE SAID. "WE HAVE ENORMOUS PROSPECTS. THOSE GREAT PROSPECTS SOMETIMES CREATE TENSIONS. BUT THOSE TENSIONS TESTIFY TO THE DYNAMISM OF OUR PEOPLE. MY FATHER WAS A MEMBER OF THE POLISH SOCIALIST PARTY (PPS). HE WAS AN INDEPENDENCE FIGHTER. HIS FATHER WAS A PARTICIPANT IN THE 1863 INSURRECTION. I GREW UP IN THE WEST AND SPENT TWENTY YEARS OF MY LIFE THERE. MY COMRADES AND FELLOW-MINERS WANTED ME TO STAY IN BELGIUM. AS A COMMUNIST AND A POLE, HOWEVER, I COULD NOT STAY THERE. I HAD TO GIVE UP THAT QUIET LIFE AND COME BACK TO UNDERTAKE A MUCH MORE ACTIVE ONE AS A COMMUNIST AND A POLE. SO FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT POLAND SHOULD KEEP ON GROWING. I HAVE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO THIS GOAL. IF I HAD TO LIVE MY LIFE OVER AGAIN, I'D DO EXACTLY THE SAME AS I HAVE. I AM SPEAKING TO YOU, MR. CONGRESSMAN, AS A POLISH-AMERICAN. IF YOU HAVE ANY LOVE FOR POLAND, PLEASE DO SOMETHING FOR HER. IN OUR HISTORY, OUR ENEMIES HAVE CUSTOMARILY STARTED WITH ATTEMPTS TO DIVIDE THE POLES. I AND ALL MY FRIENDS WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PREVENT ANYONE, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, FROM DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN US AND DIVIDING US."

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10. CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI SAID THAT MANY POLISH-AMERICANS FEEL THE SAME WAY. IT IS NOT EASY IN THE US TO BEAR THE NAME "ROSTENKOWSKI." THAT IS WHY MANY POLISH - AMERICANS HAVE ANGLICIZED THEIR NAMES. SINCE LAST THEY HAD MET, THE CONGRESSMAN SAID, HE HAD BECOME THE THIRD MAN IN THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. NOW, HIS COLLEAGUES CAN PRONOUNCE HIS NAME WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. THE CONGRESSMAN SAID HE WAS SURE THAT WE WERE ON THE EVE OF GREAT DEVELOPMENTS. HE WOULD ALWAYS VIEW POLAND WITH AFFECTION AND WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY ITS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION. HIS GRANDFATHER, THE CONGRESSMAN CONTINUED, HAD FOUGHT IN THE ARMY OF GENRAL HALLER AND HAD RECEIVED THE CROSS OF POLONIA RESTITUTA. BASED ON THE HISTORY
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OF THE ROSTENKOWSKI FAMILY AND HIS OWN POSITION AS A LEADER IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO HELP.

11. GIEREK SAID THAT, WHENEVER THE CONGRESSMAN SAW AMERICANS OF POLISH ORIGIN, HE SHOULD TELL THEM THAT POLES IN POLAND KNOW HOW BEST TO ACT IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE INTERESTS OF POLAND. "THAT'S NOT BRAGGING," HE SAID, "BUT A CAUTION ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF CERTAIN KINDS OF APPROACHES TOWARDS POLAND. THE AMBASSADOR KNOWS WHAT I MEAN AND CAN EXPLAIN IT TO YOU."

12. CONGRESSMAN RESOTENKOWSKI SAID THAT, IN THE US, A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE QUARTERBACKS IN MONDAY MORNING AND NEVER LOSE A GAME.

13. GIEREK AGREED. HE ASKED AT THIS POINT TO HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TRANSLATED FOR HIM. HE RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO IT. HE ASKED THE CONGRESSMAN TO CONVEY HIS WARM GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT CARTER, TO WISH HIM GOOD HEALTH AND SUCCESS IN THE EFFORT TO SOLVE THE GREAT PROBLEMS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THOSE EVEN GREATER ONES, WHICH AFFECT THE PEACE OF THE WORLD. "I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING PRESIDENT CARTER, EITHER IN THE UNITED STATES OR HERE, WHENEVER IT IS CONVENIENT AND CAN BE WORKED OUT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROPRIATE SEQUENCE" (COMMENT: AN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT IT IS HIS TURN TO GO TO THE US END COMMENT). "IF PRESIDENT CARTER SHOULD COME HERE, HE WOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE POLISH PEOPLE WITH A GREAT DISPLAY OF THEIR TRADITIONAL HOSPITALITY. FOR MY PARTY, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OUR RELATIONS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE."

14. GIEREK THEN SUGGESTED THAT, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSION WITH CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI, WE WORK OUT THE TEXT OF THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE MEETING, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE REFERENCES TO THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER. I AGREED.

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KOWSKI, WE WORK OUT THE TEXT OF THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE MEETING, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE REFERENCES TO THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER. I AGREED.

15. CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN WITH PRESIDENT CARTER MANY TIMES AND HAD HEARD HIM SAY AT LEAST FOUR TIMES THAT THE BEST WAY TO CONDUCT DIPLOMACY WAS TO SIT DOWN OPPOSITE ANOTHER LEADER AND TALK WITH HIM AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S POINT OF VIEW. THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS WITH THE OTHER LEADER FACE TO FACE AND WANTS TO VISIT WORLD LEADERS, AND HAVE THEM VISIT HIM, FOR THAT PURPOSE.

16. THE MEETING ENDED WITH THE PRESENTATION BY THE CONGRESSMAN OF A GIFT TO THE FIRST SECRETARY AND WITH WARM WORDS OF FAREWELL. WHEN THE CONGRESSMAN WISHED THE FIRST SECRETARY SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH POLAND'S PROBLEMS, GIEREK SUDDENLY TURNED VERY SERIOUS AND REPEATED STERNLY AND WITH PASSION WHAT HE HAD SAID ABOUT HIS DETERMINATION, AND THAT OF HIS FRIENDS, TO FRUSTRATE EFFORTS TO DIVIDE THE POLES (PARAGRAPH 9 ABOVE). SHAKING HIS FINGER FOR EMPHASIS, HE SAID, "I WILL NOT STAY MY HAND FROM WHATEVER MEASURE IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT ANYONE, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, FROM DIVIDING THE POLES." (COMMENT: I HAVE NEVER BEFORE SEEN THIS NORMALLY SELF-POSESSED MAN QUITE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT ANYTHING. END COMMENT: HE THEN RESUMED HIS CUSTOMARY AFFABILITY AND WARMLY BADE THE CONGRESSMAN FAREWELL.

17. FOLLOWING OUR RETURN TO POZNAN AND TO THE AMERICAN DAY RECEPTION, THEN IN PROGRESS, WLODZIMIERZ WISNIEWSKI, PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH CHAMBER OF FOREIGN TRADE, TOOK CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI ASIDE TO STRESS TO HIM THE IMPORTANCE OF GIEREK'S POLICY FOR THE CONTINUED FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT OF US-POLISH RELATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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